

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the City of Cambridge. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of the City of Cambridge

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 0.9% (1,115) of these admissions reside in the City of Cambridge. 1.8% (20) of admissions from the City of Cambridge were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only admissions, and can represent a figure larger than the actual number of individuals.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the City of Cambridge reported the following characteristics:

- 75.9% (846) were male and 24.1% (269) were female.
- 63.7% (710) were between the ages of 30-49.
- 68.1% (759) were white non-Latino, 17.8% (198) were black non-Latino, 9.1% (101) were Latino, and 5.1% (57) were other racial categories.
- 68.0% (758) were never married, 9.3% (104) were married, and 22.3% (253) reported not to be married now.
- 25.9% (289) had less than high school education, 43.9% (489) completed high school, and 30.2% (337) had more than high school education.
- 20.2% (225) were employed.
- 27.0% (301) were homeless.
- 26.2% (292) had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the City of Cambridge.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
City	53%	32%	5%	4%	2%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Number of admissions Reporting Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2002							
City of Cambridge							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,297	1986	708	780	561	581	344
FY '96	2,003	1,704	688	708	546	542	377
FY '97	1,923	1,648	650	615	472	559	401
FY '98	1,695	1,392	521	515	384	530	426
FY '99	1,615	1,287	450	472	305	562	405
FY '00	1,373	1,052	294	361	220	487	379
FY '01	1,228	959	316	285	152	435	321
FY '02	1,115	823	229	248	135	416	282

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the City of Cambridge and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

